

137 Nature Ln.
Arcata, CA 95521
March 30, 2001

9494 '01 APR -3 A8:00

To: FDA Commissioner

RE: Docket #OON-1396 and OOD-1598

Dear FDA Commissioner,

I am very disturbed at the lack of long-term safety testing and no requirement to label genetically modified foods. As the mother of an adolescent girl/young woman and a toddler boy, I am appalled that they are essentially the human guinea pigs for the possible impacts of genetically engineered foods, both in the environment and in their bodies.

We make a determined effort to feed our family healthy, nourishing food. As more and more food products are altered with genetic modification, with no labeling requirements, it becomes virtually impossible to avoid them. This is particularly disturbing given my son's allergies.

I've heard the argument that mandatory labeling of genetically modified organisms would be too expensive and difficult.

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Weren't similar arguments made when it became mandatory to label all foods' ingredients? Why shouldn't a company identify what their ingredient sources are in regards to genetic modification?

Labelling of g.m.o.'s has been undertaken in Europe, Japan and Russia. Are U.S. consumers any less worthy of such consideration? Voluntary labeling is not adequate to address this crucial issue.

I implore you to require both extensive pre-market safety testing and mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods. The well-being of our children, their children and the world in which they will live rests in your hands.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth L. Finger
Elizabeth L. Finger
and family